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BOOK REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, BY WINIFRED E. HOWE, Published by the Museum. Price \$2.50.

In the Foreword to this engaging history, Mr. Robert W. de Forest states that the idea of the publication originated with Mr. Henry W. Kent who, since 1905, has been assistant secretary of the Museum, and that it is under his direction and with his collaboration the volume has been prepared by Miss Howe. Mr. de Forest also says that the attempt to collect and present in readable form all the data relating to the Metropolitan Museum has been made largely with the hope that it would encourage the establishment of similar institutions in other cities. Such, indeed, should be the result, for the history of this Museum is full of inspiration and wise suggestion. A valuable portion of the record is an introductory chapter on the early institutions of art in New York, some of which perished long before the Metropolitan Museum was thought of, and must be recorded as failures, but which through mere existence prepared the ground for future successful effort. This history is not a mere compilation of dry facts, but a delightful story of adventure in the art world, beginning with a record of the first museum established by the Tammany Society in 1791—a museum of curiosities—and closing with an account of the present activities of the great Museum now known all over the world with its vast endowment, its large membership and its wealth of real treasure—the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York.

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING ART, BY ARTHUR WESLEY DOW, Professor of Fine Arts in Teachers College, Columbia University. Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, Publishers. Price \$1.50.

This admirably practical little book will be found of great value, not only by teachers, but by all who desire to develop an "art appreciation." Few of

us expect to design or decorate houses, but we would be glad to know whether the architecture of our homes be good or bad, whether the interior decorations are in harmony with their surroundings. Mr. Dow tells us how best to develop this power of discrimination and appreciation, how best to teach our children "truly to see." The clearer the vision, the greater advance we shall make as a nation toward a high and noble art.

Many delightful illustrations add absorbing interest to this practical demonstration of the teaching of art, not along the old academic lines, but in accordance with a natural development in design, that has been followed by every nation from the beginning of art-history "as a means of expression, not as an end in itself."

THE TAPESTRY BOOK, BY HELEN CHURCHILL CANDEE, Author of *Decorative Styles and Periods*, with four plates in color and ninety-nine illustrations in black and white. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, Publishers. Price \$3.50.

The great revival of interest in tapestry and tapestry workers makes this charming book of special value.

Mrs. Candee is one of those delightfully happy writers who says just enough to awaken a keen interest and a desire to learn more of her subject. Her descriptions of old tapestries, of looms and the delights of weaving, make one long to become a "tapissier" or at least to see and examine all the historic examples of which she speaks. Beginning with Egypt, China, India and Persia she follows these fascinating woven pictures of contemporary life and thought down through their Gothic perfection, Flemish decadence, English supremacy and Gobelin establishment, even to the praiseworthy efforts of a few Americans who are now striving to supply the large demand for handwoven tapestries by reproducing the marvelous colors and designs of the Old World hangings. This book, with its attractive binding and beautiful illustrations, must prove of deep interest to wealthy connoisseurs and collectors as well as to all art lovers.